

preferable to the long and prolix inscription composed for the bronze statue.<sup>1</sup>

The King's entrance into Paris did not excite so much enthusiasm as the entrance of Monsieur. In the places through which I passed on the 3d of May astonishment seemed to be the prevailing feeling among the people. The abatement of public enthusiasm was more perceptible a short time after, when Louis XVIII. restored "the red corps" which Louis XVI. had suppressed long before the Revolution.

It was not a little extraordinary to see the direction of the Government consigned to a man who neither had nor could have any knowledge of France. From the commencement M. de Blacas affected ministerial omnipotence.<sup>2</sup> When I went on the 11 th of May to the Tuileries to present, as usual, my portfolio to the King, in virtue of my privilege of transacting business with the sovereign, M. de Blacas wished to take the

\*• The inscription in question, a happy one, was really composed by Beugnot, who was much disgusted by Lally's claiming it, and his complaints reached the King. "• Louis S^VIII., who attached importance to small literary matters, for he thought them some of the riches that existed before 1789, spoke of it to M. Lally, and he eloquently proved to his Majesty that in a kingdom like his, in which there were so many men of genius, it was not surprising that they should sometimes clash" (*Dawn*, vol. ii. pp. i:7-13D).

<sup>2</sup> Otismir, Comto, later, 1821, Due, de Blacas d'Aulps (1770-1839), had succeeded the Comte, later Due, d'Avaray, as favorite of Louis XVIII., and in 1814 became his factotum, lie has been so thoroughly well abused for pride, ignorance, and carelessness that it is impossible not to believe with Marmont that he has suffered for some of the faults of others. Thus it is said that the Abbe de Montesquieu, Minister of the Interior, kept on his table, without opening them, the despatches of M. de Bouthillier, then Prefet of the Var, which told him a fortnight beforehand of the plans of "the man of Elba," and similar neglect was shown to the reports of General Bruflart, commandant of Corsica, on the same subject (*P-n/mail/re*, p. 182). For some account of Blacas see *VUrnllcs*, p. 200; *Mtttmont*, tome vii. pp. 21 and 112; *T/iivrs*, tome xviii. p. 1)2. He was dismissed in 1815, became Ambassador in Rome\* and Naples with large gifts from his master, followed the exiled family in 1816, and died at (oritz in 1831). Part of Marmont's scheme for defending Louis XVIII. in the Tuileries in 1815 see farther on, on the return of Napoleon from Elba, hinged on the forcible removal of Blacas (77u«rv», tomes xix, p. 211).

How little it was known in France what the Bourbons were is shown by the following speech of Talleyrand when first told of the influence of Blacas while the King was still in England. "Who is this Blacas? I do not know where he comes from, and care little enough to know. We are going to enter on a constitutional government, whose influence will be proportioned to capacity. Men will for the future have to take their places by public speaking and business" (*tMtynot*, vol. ii. p. 127). Talleyrand soon knew differently; indeed Louis seems to have wished in 1815 to have got rid of Talleyrand and to have kept Blacas.